

Reset \$325,000 Case

Negro Woman May Share *The Pittsburgh Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa.* 'White' Father's Estate

Sat. 6/19/60

SAN FRANCISCO — The case of Mrs. Gladys T. Stevens, formerly of New Orleans, who claims to be the daughter and heir of the late Ernest J. Tor-

regano, civic leader, was ordered back to Superior Court last week for re-trial. Torregano, an attorney, lived as a Caucasian and rose to prominence as a leader of the French community and president of the planning commission here.

Mrs. Stevens, a 55-year-old widow, now living in Los Angeles, is fighting for a share of Torregano's \$325,000 estate. She and her children lived as Negroes in New Orleans and Mrs. Stevens was at one time affiliated with the Louisiana edition of *The Courier*.

Torregano, who died about four years ago, left a will which did not mention a daughter and which provided that any claimant to the estate, except a brother, should receive one dollar.

MRS. STEVENS filed suit stating that her father had come to this city from New Orleans and had left his family and had "passed" for white.

Torregano's brother, Alfred, named as sole heir, denied he and Ernest were Negroes. He said he had never heard of Mrs. Stevens.

San Francisco Superior Judge Thomas M. Foley dismissed Mrs. Stevens' suit in 1957, ruling that Torregano's will did not mention a daughter. He pointed out the proviso stipulating that one dollar be given any other claimant to the estate. However, Mrs. Stevens' claim of being Torregano's daughter was not decided.

The California Supreme Court ruled May 24 by a 4-3 decision to re-instate Mrs. Stevens' claim and said the Superior Court must ascertain if Mrs. Stevens is Torregano's daughter and heir.



TRAVELS IN OWN PRIVATE CAR. — William Tyler, 78-year-old retired Pullman porter of Los Angeles, returned home September 8 after a trainman's holiday of almost 8,000 miles of sightseeing aboard his own private car. Tyler, who says he is going to sit around awhile, is shown with the Los Angeles City Hall in the background. Tyler's life-long dream was fulfilled with a winning ticket in the Irish Sweepstakes. He estimates that he has spent \$18,000 of his \$140,000 winnings so far.

Dr. Ransom wins fight to improve shorefront

Dartmouth, Md.

STONINGTON, Conn.—Dr. Reverdy C. Ranson 3rd, owner of Wequetequock Cove Boat Co., has been granted permission to install four floating dock piers, three mooring piles and rights to do maintenance dredging along his entire shorefront.

Set. 6/25/60
The former Wilberforce (Ohio) University professor, now Hartford public school teacher, received permission following an investigation by the Connecticut State Water Resources Commission and the U.S. Army Engineers.

* * *
WHEN DR. RANSON filed application to make the improvements, objections and complaints were registered by neighbors and residents from such distant places as Westerly, R.I.

Following the investigation, the commission stated that "it is of the opinion that construction will have no adverse effect upon the navigability...and will not increase the danger of life or property by reason of flood waters.

Crown
THE PROBE did show, however, that many property owners along Wequetequock Cove—including several of those registering complaints—had illegal pilings, docks and floats which are subject to navigation laws.

Dr. Ranson is owner-operator of one of the finest small boat marinas in the state, situated directly on the shorefront on U.S. Route 1. The cove is part of Long Island Sound waters which are noted for fishing, clamping, crabbing boating and bath.

Woman Sues to Gain Estate Left By a White Rancher She Nursed

The Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
(Courier Press Service)

SEBRING, Fla. — Mrs. Ellen Hansen, a Negro woman who took care of a rich white cattle rancher during several years of poor health and then was willed \$100,000 and a car by him at his death, has filed court action to get a settlement of the estate.

She has been given the car, but no money.

Mrs. Hansen retained attorneys who petitioned the Highlands County Probate Court to direct those handling the estate of Duane Palmer to give a full accounting on the estate.

SHE WANTS an inventory and appraisal of the estate, along with a report on receipts and expenditures since Mr. Palmer's death.

The rich rancher died Dec. 25, 1958, giving Mrs. Hansen, his faithful helper during his illness of several years, a terrific "Christmas present" in his bequest. He left half his holdings to his wife, under terms of his will.

There has been no open court fight to deprive Mrs. Hansen of what Mr. Palmer left her, but she just hasn't gotten it—that is, anything except the automobile.

So, she decided to take the matter to court to try to find out what has happened to the \$100,000 portion of her bequest.

Court Battle Looms As Negroes Inherit White Man's Fortune

The Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.

By JIM REED
(Special Correspondent)

MIAMI, Fla.—A prominent white Dade County attorney who promised a little 11-year-old girl that "I will take care of you and give you a start in life," left a \$500,000 fortune to the precocious child and her mother who served him faithfully as a house servant.

When Charles Zaring, eldest member of the Dade Bar, died at 95, on Nov. 15, 1959, his will disinherited his own daughter and left his fortune to Mrs. Lillie I. Peacock, a Coconut Grove housewife.

Mrs. Peacock worked as his cook for 11 years, and her daughter, Bonita, played a spinet piano for "Uncle Charlie" every Sunday.

MR. ZARING's daughter, Mrs. Grace Stone, well-known New York City author, was left out of the will and is suing in court to obtain the estate.

In what promises to be a long and bitter legal battle with prominent attorneys lined up on both sides, all that can be said now is that Bonita's \$32,000 trust fund will remain intact regardless of the legal outcome.

Under the terms of the will, Mrs. Peacock was given the Zaring home, "Ye Little Woode" in Coconut Grove, which she promptly sold; \$408,665 in corporation stocks; two lots valued at \$9,000, U. S. bonds worth \$254, and cash totaling \$6,615.

The \$32,000 trust fund for Bonita was set aside from the estate.

MRS. STONE, in her suit, blamed the cook and her daughter for the rift between her and

her father and said they "infiltrated the household and influenced her father."

She also charged the elderly lawyer bought an automobile and spinet piano for Mrs. Peacock and her husband, Eldridge, and gave the cook privilege to write checks on his personal bank account.

Mrs. Peacock's answer was, "We worked and paid for our home and furniture and Mr. Zaring told Bonita before he died 'I'll take care of you, give you an education and a start in life.' He wanted us to have the money. He told me many times he would take care of me."

SHE CLAIMED Zaring and his wife took an interest in Bonita right after she was born. "They loved all the children, but they loved Bonita most because she was first-born and smart."

The Zarings often discussed sending Bonita to music school in Atlanta, Mrs. Peacock said. "She took Uncle Charlie's death very hard," claims the mother, but she does not know she has inherited any money.

Mrs. Stone says "the Peacocks have been a sore spot between my father and me for years and it looks like a long, long fight." She also charges the ex-cook's daughter was living at the Zaring home. Mrs. Stone is author of "Escape" and several other books.

THE PEACOCKS live in a \$15,-000 home at 3434 Charles Ave. They have two TV sets, a hi-fi, an automobile for the Peacocks wall-to-wall carpeting, Persian scatter rugs and expensive furniture.

In her suit, Mrs. Stone charges that her father bought them two TV sets, a hi-fi, an automobile for the Peacocks wall-to-wall carpeting, Persian scatter rugs and expensive furniture.

But dominating the home is a quotation from George Washington Carver. It reads: "Start where you are with what you have; make something of it; never be satisfied."

Mrs. Peacock shows evidence of being well educated. Her husband, Eldridge, has worked as maintenance man at Carver Elementary School since Zaring's death. The wife is not employed.

But Mrs. Peacock said, "We worked and paid for our house and furniture ourselves."

A \$32,000 trust fund for Bonita, who does not know of the inheritance, was set apart in the estate and remains intact in spite of the outcome of the will battle.

BONITA, WHO called Zaring "Uncle Charlie," took his death very hard, the mother said.

The Peacocks live in a colored neighborhood in Coconut Grove at 3435 Charles Ave. The modest but nicely-kept yellow bungalow has wall-to-wall carpeting, Persian scatter rugs and tasteful furniture. A framed quotation of George Washington Carver is visible, it reads: "Start where you are with what you have; make something of it, never be satisfied."

Cook willed half million by lawyer

MIAMI, Fla.—Lawyers put the clamp on any expression of joy by a colored cook and her 11-year-old daughter who were willed a half-million dollars by a prominent Dade County attorney.

Joseph Nadler, representing Mrs. Lillie I. Peacock and young Bonita, said "absolutely no" to reporters' requests for an interview with the lucky pair.

Earlier, Mrs. Peacock had said "Yes, I'll talk to you—later" but she apparently changed her mind after a legal huddle with Nadler.

Her husband, Eldridge, maintenance man at a Coconut Grove Elementary School here, added "We can not say anything at this time."

THE WILL of Mrs. Peacock's benefactor, Charles Zaring, oldest member of the Dade bar who died at 95 on Nov. 15, 1959, is expected to be the subject of a hard fought legal contest.

Already, Zaring's daughter, Mrs. Grace Stone, has vowed to break the will. She blamed the Peacock family for a rift between herself and her father and charged that they "infiltrated the household."

Daughter Wins Court Test For \$179,000 Fla. Estate

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—A Negro woman, Mrs. Marietta Rhodes Dargan of Midville, Ga., has won a probate court battle for the estate of her minister-father, the late Rev. Jacob W. Rhodes, a Baptist minister here since 1936 and until his death, it was disclosed.

Based upon lengthy legal documents presented by her attorneys, Mrs. Rhodes Dargan was declared the daughter and rightful heir to her father's estate, valued at \$178,997.98, including \$103,167.98 in cash. She won the court battle over L. L. Farmer and James Perry, nephew and grand-nephew, respectively, who were named administrators of the huge estate.

The latter two contested the petition of Mrs. Dargan, filed in court here July 7, 1959.

It was not immediately known whether Rev. Rhodes amassed the fortune through investments or his pastoral work.

Through her attorney, Fowler, White, Gillen, Humkey and Trenah, Mrs. Dargan produced a birth certificate and marriage license of her mother, the former Sophronia Frances Hennie Howell and Rev. Rhodes, showing they were married on May 6, 1905 in Fulton County, Ga. She also claimed she was the daughter through the marriage.

\$180,000 Left to Cook

MIAMI (AP)—A bitterly contested legal battle for the \$500,000 estate of Charles Zaring, former New York and Miami attorney who died last Nov. 15 leaving his property to his Negro cook and her daughter, came to an end last week with the cook losing over \$300,000 in the deal.

After taxes and attorneys' fees are deducted, the cook, Mrs. Lillis Peacock, will get an estimated \$180,000. Bonita, her 11-year-old daughter, will receive a \$32,000 trust fund provided in Zaring's last will.

*Settles For Portion
The Deal
Kansas City, Mo.*
**\$32,000 in
trust fund
for daughter**

MIAMI—Mrs. Lillis Peacock, cook for the late dean of Dade County Bar, Charles Zaring, Friday accepted an out-of-court settlement of \$182,000 net.

When Zaring died here last November 15 at the age of 95 he left his entire estate of \$442,785.60 to Mrs. Peacock and her eleven-year-old daughter, Bonita.

Under terms of settlement worked out by Mrs. Peacock's lawyers and attorneys representing Zaring's kin in New York, Bonita gets a trust fund of \$32,000.

Others sharing in the settlement are Zaring's daughter, the internationally famous novelist, Grace Zaring Stone, who wrote "The Bitter Tea of General Yen" and other works; Zaring's niece, Mrs. Esther Henderson of Boston; and Mrs. Stone's grandson, Peter Perenyi.

MR. STONE gets \$40,000, Mrs. Henderson \$50,000 and of Mrs. Peacock, will with Perenyi \$10,000. The balance draw the contest.

Mrs. Peacock told newspapermen here that her attorneys advised her that she could probably win her claim to the entire estate, but it

would involve a long costly and bitter legal battle.

Mrs. Peacock lives in a \$15,000 home given her by Zaring two years ago. She was employed as cook by Zaring for 11 years. Before he moved to Miami, Zaring was a New York law partner of Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes.

* * *

IN NEW YORK, Mrs. Stone said her father and she became estranged several years ago "over his relationship with these people."

Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Henderson, who had filed notice of a will contest on ground that

Zaring was "under influence"

*

Peter Perenyi, Zaring's great-grandson, will get \$10,000 he "inherited" in a prior will.

Mrs. Grace Zaring Stone of New York, his daughter who was not mentioned in the wills, is to get \$40,000. Mrs. Esther Henderson of Boston, a niece, receives \$50,000.

In the original will Mrs. Peacock was left his home, stocks, bonds and cash, valued at \$50,000.

Cook Accepts Settles For Portion of \$500,000 Estate

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Mrs. Peacock, mother of five children, and her husband, Elbridge, both worked for the 95-year-old attorney and cared for him constantly during his failing health.

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Close Estate Of Wealthy Miami Lawyer

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Gain in Negroes' Income Lags Behind Whites', Survey Finds

New York

Lester B. Granger, executive secretary of the National Urban League, last week described as illusory the frequently cited economic progress of the country's Negro population.

His statement was based on review of previously unpublished statistical material from the Bureau of the Census on income comparisons of non-white and white families from 1950 to 1958.

According to these figures, family incomes had increased 45 per cent, from \$1,869 to \$2,711, whereas white family incomes increased 54 per cent, from \$3,445 to \$5,300.

In 1950, Negro families earned about 54 per cent as much as white families, but in 1958 the ratio dropped to 51 per cent, he said.

Fears Widening Gap

"The gap must be closed," Mr. Granger said, "by removing discriminative job and education barriers that Negroes face, or without the elimination of these practices there is very little hope of substantial improvement in the Negro's economic position. At the rate we are moving now, the faster we move the farther behind we fall."

The Census Bureau considers 95 per cent of the families classified as non-white to be Negroes, he added.

Mr. Granger said there were acute regional variations. In the West, the income for non-white families was \$4,095, as against \$5,763 for white families in 1958. In the Northeast region the figures were \$3,941 for non-whites and \$5,677 for whites.

In the South, family income was lowest, \$2,014 for non-whites and \$4,565 for whites, and the discrepancy between the two groups was greatest. There non-white incomes were only 44 per cent of white incomes.

Two-thirds of the Negro families live in the South, but have only about one-half of the Negro's estimated purchasing power of \$17,000,000, Mr. Granger said.

More Negroes Own Property

New York

The Commercial Appeal

Report Indicates 'Steady

Improvement' In Social And Economic Status

Memphis, Tenn.

By United Press International

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—The

White House Wednesday issued

a Labor Department report

which Secretary James P.

Mitchell said indicated steady

improvement in the social and

economic status of Negroes.

The report, largely a collec-

tion of statistics, showed an in-

crease during recent years in

the number of Negroes owning

their homes, a drop in the non-

white death rate, and an in-

crease in average earnings of

Negroes.

On Other Hand

On the other hand, it showed

a 1959 unemployment rate of

11.5 per cent for non-whites as

against 4.6 per cent for whites.

Mitchell said Negro joblessness

was disproportionately high be-

cause "Negro skill rates remain

disproportionately low."

But overall, Mitchell said in a letter to President Eisenhower, "the historic differentials between Negroes and whites have narrowed." He added, however, that the report was "not a basis for complacency but a spur to continued action."

The report showed that since 1950 the number of non-white Americans has risen by 25.5 per cent compared with a gain of only 16.2 per cent for whites. Non-white United States citizens now number nearly 20 million and make up more than 11 per cent of the population.

Mitchell attributed the in-
crease largely to a drop in the
non-white death rate. It was 10.2
per 1,000 persons in 1958 as
against 16.3 in 1930 and 25 in
1900. Comparable rates for
whites were 9.4 in 1958, 10.8 in
1930 and 17.8 in 1900.

Between 1939 and 1958, aver-
age earnings of non-white males

rose from 41 per cent to 58 per cent of that of white workers. In 1958, half of the nation's non-white workers earned \$3,368 or more a year. The corresponding sum for whites was \$5,186.

Mitchell said the changes reflected "the increasing educational advantages available to Negro youths." The report said that in education, as in other fields, Negroes still are below levels reached by whites, but they are "rapidly gaining."

Home Ownership

As for home ownership, the report said that 24 per cent of non-white families lived in their own homes in 1940, compared with 46 per cent for white families. By 1958 the rates had risen to 36 and 63 per cent.

But Mitchell said that sub-
standard housing still is a
grave reality" for Negroes. He
also said that public transporta-
tion is "seriously impaired" for
them in some areas.

"In short," he said, "full
opportunity for the Negro in all
areas of our social and economic
structure remains still a goal."

Atlanta Negroes Richest In Nation Buy 10,000 Homes

Atlanta, Ga., Mar. 21 — Atlanta Negroes whose total wealth might well make them the richest in the nation are buying more and better homes than Negroes in any other southern city according to a recent Urban League Study.

Robert A. Thompson, Associate Director of the League says that one reason for the housing progress was the sizable portion of Atlanta Negroes who vote.

In a research paper for the Housing Commission on Race and Housing, Thompson and a colleague, Dr. Hyatt G. Lewis, reported that Atlanta Negroes have purchased 10,550 homes and are paying some \$70-million in mortgages.

Negro homes in Atlanta costing more than \$30,000 are not uncommon.

Provided for Wife, Daughter

The Pittsburgh Courier Dr. Holley's Will Splits \$250,000 Among Many

(Courier Press Service)

and family, St. Matthew's, S. C. \$25 a month; Stewart Holley, 313

ALBANY, Ga.—When the late Dr. Joseph W. Holley, founder of Albany State College, made his will on June 4, 1958, a few months before his death, he had distributed his fortune, estimated at more than \$250,000 a month.

The will said the late and controversial educator gave his wife a \$9,000 home in Philadelphia and annual employment at a salary of \$5,500, with 50 per cent of that sum to be given her for life, should she retire. It gave his daughter, Josephine, an annual income of \$3,200, which in five years should grow to \$5,500.

His diamond ring was bequeathed to Mrs. J. G. Martin of Albany. His library he gave to Albany State College. The will provided, further, that after all other specified amounts are paid, the other funds are to go to the Theological Seminary in Chester County, Pa., for the religious education and training of Christian workers and ministers for service in America and Africa.

DR. HOLLEY made specific bequests for life of monthly sums to a number of persons, as long as funds are available. They included: Cora Black, Cameron, S. C., \$50 a month; Miss Norma Pruden, no address, \$25 a month; William Hawkins, Macon, Ga., \$25 a month; Marie Smith, Saginaw, Mich., \$25 a month; Mrs. Dallas Taylor, Flint, Mich., \$25 a month; Bessie Judson, Orangeburg, S. C., \$10 a month.

Mrs. Florence Derick, New York City, \$25 a month; Mrs. Dorcas Allen, Philadelphia, Pa., \$25 a month; Mrs. Ruth Stratford, Newark, N. J., \$50 a month; Mrs. Pauline Carson, Chicago, \$25 a month; Rev. Thomas C. Kataya, Tora P. O., Kataya, South Africa, \$50 a month; J. P. Holley

Wealthy Man's Surviving Sister Ordered Arrested

By JOHN BRITTON

The sister of a wealthy Atlanta Negro land owner who recently died was arrested here Friday on a contempt citation when she allegedly refused to return \$52,900 taken from a safety deposit box jointly rented with her deceased brother.

Superior Court Judge Virlyn B. Moore ordered the Brooklyn, N. Y. woman arrested after a court-appointed receiver testified that Mrs. Frances Dinzeley twice refused to give up the money under court order.

Mrs. Dinzeley, reportedly indicated, made no lump sum cash bequest to her brother, the late Dr. Ernest Stanford, named in his will as executor, and refused to give up the money. Stanford said the money might be hers to have it if a court decides that it belongs to her.

But attorney Ernest Stanford, named by Henry in his will as executor, said the will does not give her title to the money. Stanford said the money might be hers to have it if a court decides that it belongs to her.

Mrs. Dinzeley said her brother had told her, "If anything ever happened to him I could have this money."

Judge Moore reportedly told Mrs. Dinzeley "It may be your money." The receiver said he asked for but she would get it through legal action and not by simply taking it out of a safety deposit box.

The money was turned over to the receiver, attorney Ernest Brookins, and later deposited in a bank to be held until its ownership is determined by a court.

The judge's order for the woman's arrest came after two legal actions brought by Stanford on behalf of Henry's estate when the woman took the money from the box Thursday at the Fulton National Bank and allegedly refused to give it up.

The receiver testified that Mrs. Dinzeley also refused to turn the money over to him at 10:30 a. m. Friday when he went to 41 Howell St., S. E., where she was temporarily residing, and served her with a court order directing her to turn the money over to him.

Judge Moore, who appointed Brookins as receiver, issued the order for her arrest on a contempt charge after learning of her alleg-

37 1960

ILLINOIS

Buy 8th Reg. Armory For \$5,000

A Negro New Crusader co-~~erning~~ auctions that say the pro-lumnist and businessman Em-perty must go to the successful ~~ment~~ J. Marshall, bought the bidder if there are no better bids old ~~old~~ Regiment Armory building at the time of the ~~auction~~.
~~New Crusader~~
At the same time, many Negro businessmen in the area, envious of Marshall, exploded in rage that a Negro had succeeded in buying the property which would make an ideal convention hall or ballroom for the operator.

Marshall, learning of the impending auction of the property, appeared at the Armory Wednesday at 11 a.m., the specified time and found he was the only prospective bidder present. Gen. E. P. Coady, the auctioneer from the office of the Adj. General Leo M. Boyle at Springfield, Ill., looked around and seeing only Marshall, opened the bidding. Marshall bid \$5,000.

"Are there any more bids?" the harassed general asked of the empty hall. Seeing none, he looked in embarrassment at Marshall, who is also manager of the Joe Louis Theater at 35th st. and Indiana ave.

He and an aide then scurried to telephones to call businessmen and speculators asking if they knew the property was up for sale and if they wanted to make bids on it. They could find nary a prospect. "They called everybody they could think of," the New Crusader was told, "but nobody was interested."

Still unwilling to turn the property over to a Negro for the required cash in hand consideration with balance due within 60 days, the general told Marshall he would have to wait until Friday until the general got a "ruling" on the matter before he could take over his property. The general apparently paid no attention to rules and regulations gov-

37 1960

KANSAS

Creve Coeur is a suburb of
St. Louis. It has 2,040 residents.



The Washington Post Associated Press

Backs Off From Court Order

Farmer Ort Weber of Randolph, Kan., backed into a haystack Thursday when two United States deputy marshals tried unsuccessfully to serve a court order on him. Weber had threatened construction crews at gunpoint when they had begun moving equipment on his farm, which was seized by the Government for the Tuttle Creek flood control reservoir. The stubborn farmer refused to accept the court order and a government check for \$130,000 in payment for the land.

NEGRO IS BOUGHT OUT 1954 when Creve Coeur sought to condemn the land for a park.
The Commercial Appeal

St. Louis Suburb To Pay \$31,000 For Property — ST. LOUIS, March 16.—(AP) — The suburban Creve Coeur Board of Aldermen has ap-

proved payment of \$31,000 to a Negro doctor who tried to build a home in the swanky little community. Mayor John T. Bierne said

The payment to Dr. Howard P. Venable is for his land and partially completed home. Work on the house was stopped in playground.

37 Mo

37 1960

KENTUCKY

**Farmer leaves
\$82,000 estate**

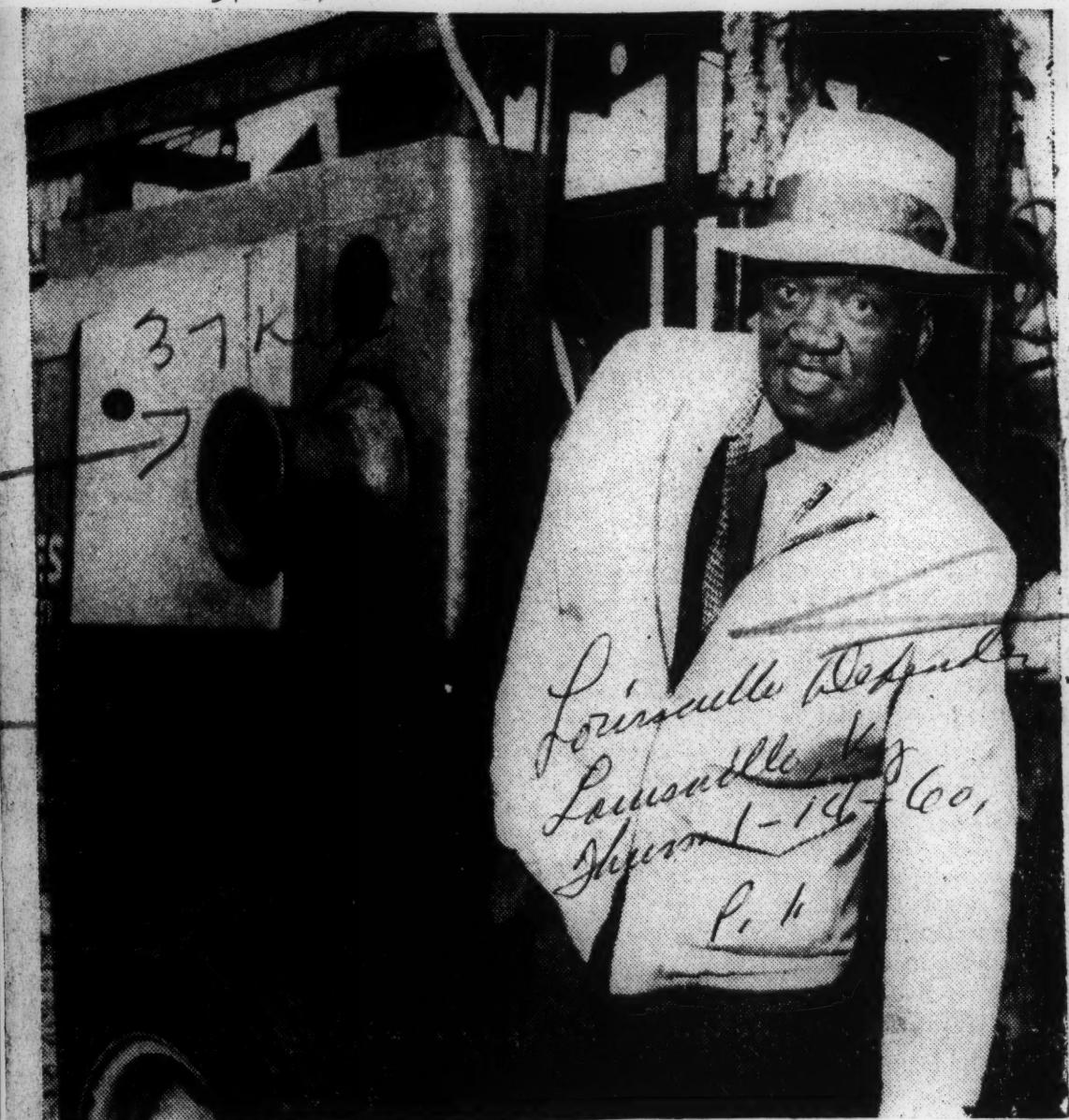
Baltimore Md.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A Harrods Creek colored farmer left an estate valued at \$82,000, it was revealed here last week. Joseph Hodgkins left no will, according to a declaration filed in County Court Wednesday. The court appointed Russell Ebinger, investment broker, as administrator. *11-17-60*

Mr. Hodgkins is survived by a brother, two sisters, and a nephew. He died October 27, at the age of 77.

37 1960

KENTUCKY



THE SMILE REFLECTS the satisfaction of L. H. Horn in bringing in his second well in gusher proportions. Horn, who has been in the oil business for 36 years, has previously brought in wells in Illinois. He has also operated in Oklahoma and British Columbia.



THIS IS THE DRILL that brought in one of the richest wells in Kentucky 12 days ago at Albany in Clinton County for oil operator L. H. Horn of Chicago. The drilling of the well has been supplied by the Alaska Drilling Company of Cave City.

Chicago Negro Strikes Oil In Clinton County

By Clarence L. Matthews

Albany, Ky. — For Chicago oil entrepreneur L. H. Horn and counterparts throughout the world, prospecting is due to his wide experience in and the operation of an oil strike is nothing new but to the oil "game." He has been in bring in one of "gusher" proportions is just cause to ex-cite the imagination of the wildest dreaming "wild catter."

Such a gusher occurred here in enormous proportions 12 days ago on property leased by Horn and the Allen and Fairfield, Illinois, in Dec. 1934. He brought in wells in Borton & Associates of Oklahoma in Clinton County, Ky., 4 1/2 miles outside the city limits of Albany. This was at 2:30 a.m. Saturday morning, January 2 when pandemonium broke loose in this southeast Kentucky community of 1,900 just north of the Tennessee line in the Lake Cumberland area.

Said Horn, "we had started drilling on Nov. 29 and didn't expect it to come in so soon. I knew it was coming up when we

heard the roaring of the gas." Horn added that oil 150 ft. high sprayed the entire area including a tenant farm house.

Lost 30,000 barrels

"We lost from 35 to 40 thousands barrels," said Horn, "before we could contain the flow." Didn't overflow. This was 36 years ago. He has been in the ponds to hold the oil. The first business every since

Few Negroes

Horn is one of the few Negroes actively engaged in the operating-producing end of the business in the country. Said Horn, "America is the greatest country in the world. The only thing that keeps you out of this business is yourself."

Horn stayed at the site of the gusher from early Friday morning through the strike until Sunday evening at 9 p.m. The coming of the oil was accompanied by severe rain storms followed by an equally harsh snow storm. The well produces approximately 2,000 barrels a day.

The Chicagoan was virtually born into the oil business in his native Texas at the time of the first big oil booms in the "lone star" State. His first job was that of a janitor in the

as typical of most oil leases, Horn and his partner will receive 7/8 per cent and the property owner 1/8 or royalty. The property owner has to make out a mineral deed if he wishes to sell part of his royalty. His leases covers 150 acres surrounding the well.

As the operator, Horn's job is to hire drillers and generally supervise the entire operation of the well. "The operator," said Horn, "is responsible for everything."

Reasons for Horn's comparative calm in all the excitement and the operation of an oil strike is nothing new but to the oil "game." He has been in the newly discovered will was Lester Belgrade, present owner of note of the Top Hat Tavern, 1210 W. Walnut. Belgrade purchased the Top Hat last summer when the right to do business and fixtures were auctioned off to satisfy federal tax liens.

Activity is expected to be increased considerably since Horn's strike. The area has taken on a circus-like appearance with tourist, oil men and curiosity seekers parked on the roads and walking through the fields. The air lanes were even filled with planes taking photographs and a general "peep" at the new well.

Other Leases

Horn also owns four adjoining leases to the oil producing property. Already he is placing a new pump on the site of the strike. There has been other drilling in the area but none of the proportions of the Horn well. Quipped Horn, "You won't know the place next year."

Under the terms of the lease.

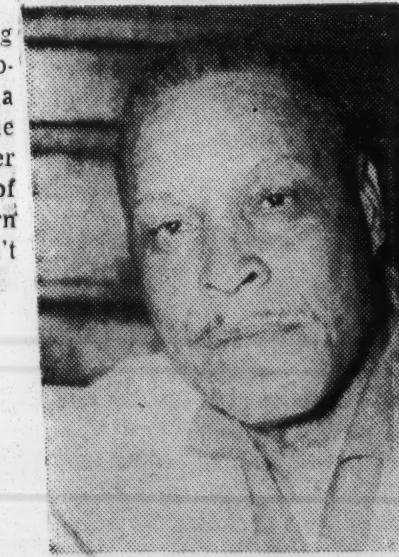
Rivers Leaves Estate

California Wife May Renounce Figure's Will

Robert "Rivers" Williams, often a controversial figure in life, has become the subject of considerable confusion of attorney's and relatives as it was revealed this week that he left a will leaving all his assets to a white business associate.

Recipient of the proceeds of the newly discovered will was Lester Belgrade, present owner of note of the Top Hat Tavern, 1210 W. Walnut. Belgrade purchased the Top Hat last summer when the right to do business and fixtures were auctioned off to satisfy federal tax liens.

The will may be contested, however, by Mrs. Nan Williams, a wife whom "Rivers" reportedly never divorced and who now lives in California. Under Kentucky law, she has the right to renounce the will made by her husband. She is entitled to half of his property.



Robert "Rivers" Williams

Although the estimated worth of "Rivers'" assets is \$125,000, the estate reportedly is heavily mortgaged. Judge Lawrence Grauman holds a mortgage of \$60,000 and the Citizen's Fidelity Bank a \$24,000 mortgage on

I want you to witness my will."

He testified that Rivers and Belgrade had a private conference for about five minutes prior to asking him to witness the will but he didn't hear what they discussed. He added that he saw Rivers sign the will while lying on the bed. He added, under questioning, that he heard no explanation of the will given.

Miller, who said that he had known "Rivers" since 1946, said that Belgrade and "Rivers" came to his office and asked him to witness the will and put his seal on it which he did. He said that he did not read the will. He said that was in 1957.

In a hearing before the County Probate Court of Judge Charles B. Zirkle, Attorneys for William Williams, 61, "Rivers'" brother and for the Estate, Mrs. Williams and Belgrade heard testimony involving the will.

"Jack" Anderson, the first to testify, said that he signed the will some time over a year ago but could not be certain of the date. He said that he had come to "Rivers" home, then at 706 Cedar, to see him on a business matter around 12 noon.

Present in the home, said Anderson, was Miss Zelma Knox and Belgrade. He said that after Belgrade arrived, Rivers called him saying "Jack, come here

37 1960

~~Jackson Advocate~~
~~Jackson Miss~~
**List \$15,000 In
Bequests From
Mother Of Sou.
Univ. President**

Bat. 11/19-60
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, November 11, 1960 — Mrs. J. S. Clark, wife of the late Dr. J. S. Clark and mother of Dr. Felton G. Clark, president of Southern University, made bequests of approximately 15 thousand dollars to various organizations and persons, according to the records of her estate, which has just been closed.

The amount is about the same as that left by her husband. Similarly, she remembered the same kind of sources.

Like him, first listed was her church interest; Mt. Zion in Baton Rouge and Trenton in Monroe, to which she left one thousand dollars. Thereafter ranged amounts from five hundred to fifteen hundred dollars to the "loyal and faithful one," as she put it "who helped and comforted me in sickness and in health, whose hearts were never bitter, but always overflowing with the grace and love."

Mrs. Clark always believed that true giving must be personal and sacrificial. This she carried out even to the plans for her death, for, her will specifically stated that she was aware of the nature of her bequests, asking that there be no hesitancy in taking them out of her personal savings.

Another insight into her character is revealed in her providing in her will for a personal bequest which she thought her late husband intended to make, but forgot. She also left a letter for her son, requesting him to make a gift in her behalf to one who was kind to her through not a part of the formal will, he honored it, carrying out the request.

LOUISIANA

37 1960

MARYLAND

The Afro-American Mrs. Carl Murphy leaves entire estate to husband

P. 18 BALTIMORE

A will left by Mrs. Vashti T. Murphy, who died, here, March 17th, left her entire estate to her husband, Dr. Carl Murphy, president of the AFRO-AMERICAN

The document dated November 24, 1956, decreed that in the event of Dr. Murphy pre-deceased her, the estate would be shared equally by any otherian Church, the Madison Avenue branch YWCA and their five daughters living at the time.

Dr. Murphy was named executor, with authority to sell, lease, exchange or mortgage all or any part of the estate without obligation to anyone dealing with him.

The will also decreed that the executor be authorized and empowered to vote in person or by proxy with or without power of substitution upon all stocks or other securities constituting a part of her estate.

Action in administration this week included the transfer of an automobile valued at \$650 to a daughter, Mrs. Carlita M. Jones of Buffalo, N.Y.

The estate has been inventoried at \$22,920.26, \$11,560.08 of which came from the Baltimore Employees Retirement System. There was also a bank account of \$1054.71, her home, furnishings and an automobile.

Mrs. Dickerson was survived by six brothers and sisters. Other legatees are a sister-in-law and nieces and nephews.

A brother, James B. Holcombe; a sister, Mrs. Florence H. Hampton, and a niece, Mrs. Norma H. McClain; are executors.

DR. LILLIE M. JACKSON, president of the NAACP, said the 'generous' gift from Mrs. Dickerson has enabled the organization to provide free transportation during its register-to-vote drive.

The Rev. Reginald Daniels, pastor of the Madison Ave. church, said a memorial to Mrs. Dickerson is planned by the church anniversary in May. He said she was an active member of the church for over 25 years, and took

YW, church, NAACP willed *The Afro-American* \$3,500 by Mrs. Dickerson

particular interest in the ladies' guild.

The Madison Ave. YWCA Board has not yet decided what use it will make of the gift.

Mrs. Lillian Parrott, said, NAACP are the chief beneficiaries under the will of a Mrs. Lena H. Dickerson. She died in Jan. 1960.

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Mrs. L

37 1960

MICHIGAN

**Woman Mortician
Divorces Medic-Mate,
Gets \$80,000 Property**

DETROIT (AP) — A socially prominent funeral home owner was granted a divorce in Circuit Court last week from her physician husband and property settlement in the amount of over \$80,000.

She is Mrs. Annetta C. Fields, widow of the Fields Funeral Home. Mrs. Fields was granted a divorce from her husband, Dr. Henry J. Fields of Laurel, Miss.

The divorce was filed by Atty. Lawrence W. Massey. In the bill of complaint Mrs. Fields charged her husband with extreme cruelty.

According to Atty. Massey Mrs. Fields was granted property valued at more than \$80,000. The property awarded by Circuit Judge Neal Fitzgerald included a 16-family apartment, a four-family apartment and two large flats.

The Fields were married 23 years and separated last September.

37 1960

Pullman Porter Hires Himself Pullman Car

New York, N.Y.

Sweepstakes Winner Seeing U. S. In Style With Wife and Friends

William Tyler, a man who has every right to go down in history as one of the great legendary figures of railroading, left here for points west yesterday with a quiet smile on his face and a feeling of profound contentment inside.

Mr. Taylor is seventy-eight and a retired Pullman porter, and the reason for his feeling of great well-being was that he was riding in a Pullman car which he had hired to take him on a coast-to-coast tour.

Sweepstakes Winner

He is traveling with his wife, his landlady and five other friends. They have the car all to themselves. The party left Los Angeles, where Mr. Tyler lives, on Aug. 21.

Mr. Tyler estimates the trip will cost him \$15,000, and he's paying for it out of the \$140,300 he won last spring in the Irish Hospitals Sweepstakes. But the expense doesn't really matter. It's the fulfillment of the dream which is important to Mr. Tyler.

"The Southern Pacific thought I was kind of goofy when I called up and asked about hiring a sleeper for a trip to the East," Mr. Tyler said. "The man told me it would cost around \$7,500. I said, 'Fine, I'll send you a check for \$8,500 in case it's any more.'"

So far, Mr. Tyler and his party have visited El Paso, New Orleans, Cincinnati and Niagara Falls. For the last week, they have been visiting New York City. Yesterday, they went over to Hoboken to board their car again in the Lackawanna yards and set off for Chicago and San Francisco.

"Railroads have changed since I retired in 1938," said Mr. Tyler, "but the only thing I missed were the old steam locomotives. How I used to love

NEW YORK

A spare man with high-button shoes and a cap set at a jaunty angle, Mr. Tyler appears to be a person of great dignity. He worked as a bank guard for eleven years after retiring from his railroad job.

"I've got enough money left over to last me the rest of my life," he said, "but if I hit again in October, I'll hire another car and come back."



New York Herald Tribune, New York, Aug. 23
Associated Press wirephoto

DREAM COME TRUE—Former Pullman porter William Tyler has mink cape adjusted under his head by Pullman porter Clarence Gordon on his own train which he hired for cross-country tour.

Might Do It Again
the sound of those whistles!" his traveling companions had to see the rest of
never been anywhere but California—the country and enjoy it, as he
Mr. Tyler said that most of California, and he wanted them to had while he was a porter.

37 1960

OHIO

Jane Hunter Worth Over \$400,000

The Pittsburgh Courier p. 5 Rule Cleveland Woman Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 8-20-60 Unfit to Handle Fortune

from the Phillis Wheatley Association at 4450 Cedar Ave. Miss CLEVELAND—Miss Jane Hunter has six relatives in Cleveland. She founded Cleveland's Phillis Wheatley Association and land.

who has amassed a personal fortune of nearly one-half million dollars, at 77, can look back over an active life which began with \$1.75.

An inventory of Miss Hunter's possessions filed in Probate Court revealed her estate to be worth \$409,711.72.

Miss Hunter, who has been judged "incompetent," is presently in Ingleside Hospital. She came to Cleveland near the turn of the century with \$1.75, and an education in nursing.

She soon became director of Phillis Wheatley and devoted her energies to raising the standards of life and skill for Negro women.

The young pioneer, who was born Jane Harris on a farm near Pendleton, S. C., then undertook various financial ventures, including real estate, stocks, securities and bonds.

In 1940, a few years before her autobiography was published, Miss Hunter retired as director of Phillis Wheatley.

CHARLES M. HADLEY, Miss Hunter's lawyer, has been named guardian to preserve and main-

JANE HUNTER

... worth \$409,711.72

tain her properties and to pay for her care.

Friends became worried when Miss Hunter began to refuse advice concerning her health.

A young physician, who Miss Hunter had helped through college, examined her and advised that she go to Cleveland Clinic for study. Doctors there recommended to Probate Court that she be placed under a guardian.

For years Miss Hunter had made her home across the street

31





Shortly after marriage
This photo was taken of Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Walker. Mrs. Walker (now Mrs. Charles Tarpley) is currently seeking one year's widow's support from the estate of Dr. Walker. Should this be granted she would automatically be granted more than \$125,000 or one-third of the estate of the former head of Universal Life Insurance Co. A. Maceo Walker, present president of the company, is protesting the petition charging that she was not legally married to his father. She was Dr. Walker's second wife.

Claims Second Marriage Illegal

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

More than \$125,000 is at stake as storm clouds are beginning to form in a legal wrangle over the estate of the late Dr. J. E. Walker who was president of Universal Life Insurance co. and Tri-State Bank when he was shot to death in July, 1958.

At issue is whether or not Mrs. Louise O'Reilly Walker (now Mrs. Louise Walker Tarpley) will receive the one-third widow's share of the \$379,592 estate as required by law.

Dr. Walker's son, A. Maceo Walker, now president of Universal and executor of the estate, has served notice that he will fight an award of one year's widow's support to Mrs. Tarpley, who was Dr. Walker's second wife.

WIDOW'S SUPPORT

Through Atty. A. A. Latting, Mr. Walker announced that he would contest Mrs. Tarpley's court petition for the one-year's widow's support on the grounds that a divorce granted his father's first wife was not valid, consequently her marriage to the late Dr. Walker was not legal.

Both Attorney Latting and Atty. Wallace Lopez, Mrs. Tarpley's lawyer, told the Tri-State Defender that should the widow's support be granted, Mrs. Tarpley would automatically receive one-third of the estate under law.

According to Atty. Lopez, Mrs. Tarpley was not included in Dr. Walker's will because the wealthy insurance executive had planned to make a new will to include his new wife and her child whom he was going to adopt.

In fact, Mr. Lopez said, adoption proceedings were scheduled on the very morning that Judge Washington Hamilton, 76, shot and killed Dr. Walker in his office.

SET HEARING

A hearing will be held January 7 to determine whether Probate Judge Sylvanus Polk will appoint three commissioners to set the amount of support for Mrs. Tar-

ley.

Major beneficiaries under the will were A. Maceo Walker and his sister, Mrs. Johnetta Walker Kelso.

Dr. Walker's major holdings, according to an inventory of the estate, were 2502½ shares in Universal Life. Worth \$125 a share, this amounts to \$312,812.50. Cash, bonds and stock in Tri-State Bank increased the estate to \$379,592.

Walker Heirs The Pittsburgh Courier Claim Widow Not Divorced

Pittsburgh, Pa.
MEMPHIS, Tenn.—A hearing

has been set for Jan. 7 to hear charges that Mrs. Walker was not legally married to the late Dr. J. E. Walker, wealthy insurance company head.

Petition for a year's support for Mrs. Louise O'Reilly Walker from the \$379,592 estate of Dr. Walker will be heard by Probate Judge Sylvanus Polk.

Dr. Walker, who was president of Universal Life Insurance Company, was shot and killed in his office in July, 1958.

The hearing is at the request of Atty. A. A. Lettings, representing the son, A. Maceo Walker Sr., executor of the estate. He and a daughter, Mrs. Johnetta Walker Kelso, were principal beneficiaries of the estate.

Attorney Letting said the petition for the widow's support will be contested by the executor on grounds that a divorce granted Mrs. Walker in a previous marriage was invalid and she was

not validly married to Dr. Walker.

Legal Hassle Over Will The Call, Kansas City, Mo. Of Dr. Henry Allen Boyd

Mo 2-5-60

NASHVILLE. — (APN) — A legal hassle over the "true meaning" of the will and an addition thereto of the late Dr. Henry Allen Boyd is scheduled to be aired in chancery court soon.

At issue is whether M. G. Ferguson, current president of Citizens Savings Banks and Trust company and trustee of the late Dr. Boyd's estate—estimated at more than \$1 million—is required to settle directly with Mrs. Katherine Boyd-Roach, the deceased's daughter, her share of the estate, or whether the bank stock and other properties are to be held in trust for her benefit.

Had Large Holdings

Dr. Boyd, who died last spring, held large holdings as general secretary-treasurer, National Baptist Publishing board; president-board chairman, Citizens Savings bank; president-board chairman, YMCA Nashville Globe newspaper; and owned extensive property and stock in big firms throughout the country.

The will was executed April 9, 1952, and its addition, April 14, 1955. Trustees listed in the 1955 provision are Ferguson, the Misses H. L. Jordan, bank cashier; and Sadie B. Wilson, publishing board executive secretary and bank director.

Besides Mrs. Roach, other beneficiaries include Mrs. Lula-Boyd Landers, sister of the deceased; the Misses Wilson and Jordan; and Mose J. Davis, former YMCA executive secretary and also of the publishing board.

Many Bequests To Daughter

Mrs. Roach is to receive, in addition, \$60,000 in life insurance; all holdings and stock in the Nashville Globe, and property in Cleveland and Nashville, together with control of monies deposited in five banks in different parts of the country.

Squabble Over \$1 Million Estate Of Dr. Henry Boyd

Chicago Defender

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Legal hassle develops over Dr. Boyd's \$1 million estate

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Moving quietly into focus here is what promises to be a sizzling legal battle over what some informed sources have said is a \$1,000,000-plus estate of the late Dr. Henry Allen Boyd.

As of this week the whole story is unfolding through a series of filing and cross-filing of petitions in chancery court.

Dr. Boyd died last Spring. He held large holdings as general secretary and treasurer of the National Baptist Publishing Board of the National Baptist Convention of America; president and board chairman of the Citizens Savings Bank and Trust company, said to be the nation's oldest Negro banking firm;

President and board chairman of the Colored YMCA; owner of extensive property and stock in big firms across the country; and Nashville Globe newspaper.

The original petition was filed some months ago by Citizens Savings Bank and Trust company, executor under terms of Dr. Boyd's will, and by M. G. Ferguson, trustee.

Ferguson is president of the bank. He held the position of executive vice-president for many years before Dr. Boyd's death.

In this petition the court is being asked to determine the "true meaning" of Boyd's will, executed April 9, 1952, as well as the meaning of an addition to the will, executed April 14, 1955.

At issue is whether Ferguson, as executor, is required to settle insurance money; all holding and directly with Mrs. Katherine Landers, Boyd's daughter, her publishing company and property share of the estate, or whether in Cleveland and Nashville.

Boyd's stock in Citizens Bank and other properties are to be held in trust for her benefit by a trustee, said to be created by the 1955 provision.

The trustees listed in the 1955 provision are Ferguson, Miss H. L. Jordan, cashier of the bank, and Miss Sadie B. Wilson, executive secretary of the National Baptist Publishing Board and a Stock in the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance company Tri-State Bank director.

In addition to Mrs. Roach, the

National Club building, New York City; and one-half of Boyd's investment in the Denominational Trust association.

She also is to receive stock in the Farmers Merchant bank, Richmond, Va.

The first petition asks for determination of whether 3,739 shares of Citizens Bank stock bought in 1953 by the publishing board and accrued dividends, belong to the National Baptist Publishing Board or the Boyd estate.

The petition points out that dividends paid on the stock purchase for 1953, and subsequent years, were credited to the personal account of Henry Allen Boyd.

All beneficiaries in the will must wait the determination of chancery court.

Meanwhile, waiting in the wing to add aggravation to the estate discussion, are the local powerful law firm of Williams, Harwell, Howser and Thomas who are looking out for Mrs. Roach's interest and the possibility of nearly \$20,000 in back pay.

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The will was executed

Boyd Landers, sister of the deceased; the Misses Wilson and Jordan; and Mose J. Davis, former YMCA executive secretary and also of the publishing board.

Mrs. Roach is to receive, in addition, \$60,000 in life insurance; all holdings and stock in the Nashville Globe, and property in Cleveland and Nashville, together with control of monies deposited in five banks in different parts of the country.

Miss Wilson, Dr. Boyd's confidential aide for many years, is to receive 2,000 shares of Citizen Bank stock; \$100 in life insurance stock; stock in Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company, Tr-State bank, Memphis; Republican National Club building, New York; half of Dr. Boyd's investment in the Denominational Trust Association, and stock in the Farmers Merchant Bank, Richmond, Va.



DR. HENRY A. BOYD

April 9, 1952, and its addition, April 14, 1955.

Trustees listed in the 1955 provision are Ferguson, the Misses H. L. Jordan, bank cashier; and Sadie B. Wilson, publishing board executive secretary and bank director.

Besides Mrs. Roach, other beneficiaries include Mrs. Lula-

Charge Bias In Chicago Defender Try For Land

MILWAUKEE (UPI)—An attorney for a Negro landowner Wednesday promised he will fight a Racine County school district's attempt to condemn the tract for a new building. The lawyer claimed the condemnation was inspired by race prejudice. *Sat. 3-19-60*

Atty. Clarence Jacobson, of Milwaukee, counsel for Ross Allen, also of Milwaukee, said the attempted condemnation was based on "discrimination rather than need." *P. 13*

Residents of the North Cape School District voted 47-20 Monday night to order condemnation of the four-acre tract.

The North Cape school board had offered Allen \$3,200 for the land. When the owner refused, an attorney for the board recommended against condemnation. The three - member board resigned when residents of the area circulated a petition questioning the board's failure to obtain the land.